



California Pan-Ethnic
HEALTH NETWORK

CPEHN/McClatchy News Virtual Mental Health Briefing Program

November 19th

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

12:30 PM to 12:35 PM: Housekeeping

12:35 PM to 12:45 PM: Opening Remarks: Structural disparities in behavioral health for communities of color.

Chet Hewitt, President and CEO of the Sierra Health Foundation of California

Chet P. Hewitt is President and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and its nonprofit intermediary partner, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. Over the past decade, Chet has led a bold collective impact strategy focused on promoting health and social justice in underserved communities. Recognized for his strategic thinking and willingness to take thoughtful risk, Chet has received national attention for making the Foundation's and The Center's partnerships with local communities and public and private funders the centerpiece of both organizations' strategy for change. Chet Hewitt's opening remarks will focus on the on the imperative to address the drivers of mental health inequities.

12:45 PM to 1:15 PM: Session 1: Disparities in Mental Health

Please join us for a roundtable discussion on how racism manifests in the context of mental health, recent data on mental health disparities, factors impacting the looming mental health budget crisis, and concrete steps California must take to reduce mental health disparities in communities of color.

In the midst of national protests against police violence, California policymakers are considering proposals to divert funds away from law enforcement to other services while at the same time our deficit has caused budget cuts to mental health services. The Census Bureau finds amid the coronavirus pandemic, a third of Americans now show signs of clinical anxiety or depression. The mental health of African Americans and Latinx communities are impacted by COVID-19 at a higher rate than their white counterparts. We will discuss ways to acknowledge and address these disparities and what the state, counties, and administrative bodies can do.

Kiran Savage-Sangwan, Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Lauren Gustus, West Coast Region Editor of McClatchy

Dr. Sandra Hernandez, MD, President and CEO of California Health Care Foundation

Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Assemblymember (D-Fresno)

1:15 PM to 1:20 PM: Break

1:20 PM to 1:50 PM: Session 2: Local programs that should be replicated at the state level

Join us for a roundtable discussion with three experimental and evidence-based policies and programs proven to reduce mental health disparities in communities of color across California.

California policymakers continue to grapple with how to best reform the state's mental health system. Mental health reform is necessary and more urgent than ever due to the pandemic and rising levels of stress and anxiety.

We will discuss how racial equity must be central to conversations about mental health reforms.

Moderator: Mihae Jung, MSW, Community Advocacy Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Lupe Solorio, Vice President of Capacity Development and Sustainability, Community Partners

- Lupe will discuss recent efforts of Los Angeles County to help organizations build capacity and increase their ability to provide prevention and mental health services in the communities they work in partnership with county behavioral health departments.

Joel Baum, Senior Director of Professional Development, Gender Spectrum

- Joel will discuss outcomes of a curriculum aimed at reducing mental disparities transgender and gender expansive youth face by providing evaluation services designed to transform schools into inclusive centers of wellness that celebrate gender diversity.

Ruben Garcia, Program Manager, Fresno American Indian Health Project

- Ruben will discuss outcomes of the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) intervention for Native American and Alaskan Indian communities in Fresno.

1:50 to 2:00PM: Q&A